

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FISHERY UPDATE #1
May 7, 2012

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 6 totals 42,346 adults.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC did not provide an update, but stated the run will not meet the preseason forecast of 314,200 at the river mouth, is late timed, the recent 5-year and 10-year average 50% date is May 7 and May 6, and there is not enough information to update the run size today.

Treaty Fishery Update

- The ceremonial permit fishery, platform and hook-and-line fishing, and the hook-and-line fishery downstream of Bonneville are ongoing. No commercial gillnet fisheries have occurred in 2012 for spring Chinook.

Preliminary summary of 2012 Treaty Indian upriver Chinook catches			
Fishery	In Hand (thru 5/6)	Planned (thru 5/11)	Total
Ceremonial Permits	6,907	2,093	9,000
Zone 6 Platform/H&L	1,190		
Below Bonneville Dam H&L	390		
Platform H&L Subtotal	1,580	420	2,000
Total Upriver Impacts	8,487	2,513	11,000

- The current season total upriver catch in all treaty Indian fisheries through May 6 is 8,487 fish. A final upriver run size of 109,000 is required to remain with impact limitations (8.3%) for fisheries through May 6.
- The projected catch estimate of upriver spring Chinook from treaty Indian fisheries through May 11 totals 11,000 fish. A final upriver run size of 132,500 is required to remain with impact limitations (8.3%) for fisheries projected through May 11.

Non-Treaty Fishery Update

- Two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods (18 hours combined) occurred on April 3 and April 10. Landings include 6,179 Chinook. One additional Chinook was landed during the winter sturgeon season. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 4,318 fish, compared to the 5,900 available pre-update (73%).
- Winter season Select Area fisheries concluded April 5 and spring fisheries began April 19. Landings thru May 4 total 2,701 Chinook.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open through Sunday April 22. The estimated catch is 11,826 kept adult fish from 106,400 angler trips. Kept and release

mortalities of upriver fish is estimated at 8,922 fish, or 70% of the 12,700 available prior to a run update.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open March 16 through May 6. Catch totaled 591 kept and 174 released with upriver Chinook mortalities totaling 608 compared to the 1,700 available pre-update (36%).
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) opened below Ice Harbor Dam on April 20 and in three areas between Little Goose Dam and Clarkston, WA on April 25. Catch estimates through May 6 totaled 79 upriver Chinook. Catch projections through May 13 are for an additional 405 upriver mortalities (kept plus released) for a total of 484 compared to the 1,362 available pre-update (36%).
- The current season total upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all non-treaty fisheries is 14,056 fish. A final upriver run size of 154,500 is required to remain within catch balance and impact limitations for completed fisheries and Select Area commercial fisheries (through May 4).

Preliminary summary of 2012 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches (Pre-Update)				
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)			
	Allocated	In Hand	Planned	Total
Mainstem commercial (complete)	5,914	4,318	0	4,318
Select Area commercial (actual thru 5/4; proj. thru 6/15)	330	129	35	164
Below Bonneville recreational (complete)	12,666	8,922	0	8,922
Bonn to OR/WA border recreational (actual thru 5/6)	1,689	608	0	608
Snake River recreational (actual thru 5/6, proj. thru 5/13)	1,362	79	405	484
Wanapum Tribal	33	0	33	33
Total Upriver Impacts	21,994	14,056	473	14,529

Does not include minimal impacts for planned non-target fisheries (shad commercial and LCR mainstem recreational steelhead).

- A final upriver run size of 160,000 is required to remain within catch balance and impact limitations for completed mainstem commercial, lower Columbia recreational fisheries, the Bonneville to OR/WA border recreational fishery, and projections for planned Select Area commercial (thru 6/15) and Snake River fisheries (thru 5/13).

Future Meetings

- Staff is not proposing any hearings at this time. Hearings already in place include:

Summer Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 AM Wednesday June 13, 2012

Fall Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 AM Thursday July 26, 2012

Both hearings will be held at The River Street Room (12 River Street) in Cathlamet, WA 98612 (STREET PARKING ONLY).